

P L A N

O F A



Complete History of England.

**S**O many Histories of England have already appeared, that the editor of this performance finds it absolutely necessary to make the public acquainted with the motives which have induced him to usher into the world, another work on the same subject.

The author does not pretend to have discovered any authentic records which have escaped the notice of other historians; or to have thrown such lights upon particular facts, as must alter the received opinions of mankind, touching the material circumstances of the narration. His aim is to retrench the superfluities of his predecessors, and to present the Public with a succinct, candid, and complete History of our own country, which will be more easy in the purchase, more agreeable in the perusal, and less burthensome to the memory, than any work of the same nature, produced in these kingdoms.

By the enormous bulk and prolixity of every other English history that stands in any degree of reputation, many a reader has been deterred from learning what every person ought to know, and even totally discouraged from engaging in the most entertaining and useful of all rational inquiries.

The author has avoided all useless disquisitions, which serve only to swell the size of the volume, interrupt the thread of the narrative, and perplex the reader. His purpose was to compile an history, not to compose a dissertation.

He has waved all remarks of his own, except such as seemed absolutely necessary, that he might not encumber

cumber the page, and disgust the reader, by anticipating his reflection, and forestalling his judgment.

He has forbore to record foreign incidents in which England has no immediate concern; as the design is not to publish the annals of Europe, but the transactions of one people. Neither has he literally transcribed every treaty of alliance, and each single decree of parliament, so as to form a monstrous medley of the highest enterprizes of power, and the lowliest precautions of civil oeconomy. Such a work would be a dry, tedious, fatiguing collection of public acts, and statutes, rather than a well connected detail of historical events.

He has been upon his guard against that affectation of singularity, which is so apt to betray an author into a labyrinth of vague conjectures, through which the truth often vanishes from his researches.

He values himself upon being entirely free of all national jealousy and prejudice; and altogether uninfluenced by that illiberal partiality which has disgraced the works of many English historians. He is soured by no controversy in religion: he is inflamed by no faction in politics. Truth is the object of his enquiry; and candid information the scope of his labour.

He pretends to communicate a summary idea of the antient inhabitants of this island, as described by Greek and Latin authors, the only sources from which we can draw any certain intelligence concerning the original possessors of Britain.

After a distinct detail of Cæsar's descent, the progress of the Roman arms in England under successive emperors, the formation of the province, their improvements of the civil policy of the country, the gradual declension of their power, and their final retreat to the continent; he proceeds to describe the first dawns of the Christian faith in Britain; the arrival, settlement, character, and genius of the Saxon adventurers:

turers: the rise and progress of our constitution in church and state; and the changes it underwent in consequence of the Norman conquest.

He mentions every material transaction, whether of war or of peace, whether public or private, which might conduce to the illustration of the subject.

He collects his materials from the most authentic historians, to whose works he refers in the margin. He delineates the characters of princes, from the uniform tenour of their public conduct, compared with striking passages in private life, which often exhibit the real, naked picture, uncloaked with reserve, undisguised by formality or dissimulation.

He records every remarkable improvement in arts and sciences, which the world has owed to the natives of this kingdom.

He exhibits a separate view of ecclesiastical affairs, digested into distinct periods, from the first preaching of Christianity in Britain, to the latest regulations of church-government.

He has endeavoured to write in a clear, succinct, nervous stile; to arrange his materials with accuracy and precision; to expatiate on the most interesting circumstances; and to entertain the imagination, while he informs the understanding.

In order to assist the memory, and supply proper pauses for the attention, he has planned the work into a certain number of books or parts, each comprehending the transactions of one important period; and these are subdivided into chapters, furnished with titular contents, that distinguish every individual section or paragraph.

The chronology is ascertained from year to year, on the margin.

All obscure allusions are explained in notes at the bottom of the page; together with the genealogical deduction of every prince's posterity and marriages, reputed



reputed portents, detached events, and private anecdotes; which, tho' tending to elucidate the story, would, if inserted in the context, disunite the chain of incidents, and spoil the uniformity of the execution.

On the whole, this work is formed upon a plan which was the result of the most mature deliberation; and has one advantage over all other Histories of England; namely, that of being brought home to our own times and observation, from the earliest age of our historical credit to the last treaty of Aix la Chapelle.

The work will be neatly printed, and contained in three volumes in quarto; with three elegant frontispieces, and a map proper for the History; and the Public may depend on its appearance in the month of February, 1757.

JAMES RIVINGTON and JAMES  
FLETCHER, Booksellers at the Ox-  
ford Theatre in Pater-noster-Row.

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### Prices of the different Histories of England.

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